CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A notifying method, comprising:

receiving an indication that a notification message should be delivered to a plurality of recipients;

identifying contact information for the plurality of recipients;

initiating [[an]] outbound packetized calls call to more than one of the plurality of recipients;

~~recognizing an answering of a first call directed to a called party included in the plurality of recipients;~~

determining whether a first recipient of the plurality of recipients answers a first call of the outbound packetized calls;

when the first recipient answers the first call, connecting the first call to a multicast server to deliver the message during the first call via the multicast server; ~~and~~

~~delivering a message with the multicast server during the first call;~~

when the first recipient does not answer the first call, placing one or more subsequent calls to the first recipient, each of the one of more subsequent calls placed after a predetermined time interval has passed; and

when a number of the one or more subsequent calls satisfies a threshold, stopping placing the one or more subsequent calls to the first recipient.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein a connection supporting the first call comprises a twisted pair link, and wherein the method further comprises ~~further comprising~~:

disconnecting from the first call; and

indicating successful delivery of the message to the called party.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

recognizing that customer premise equipment associated with the first call comprises
      specialized ring tone functionality; and

communicating [[an]] a specialized incoming call signal to the customer premise
      equipment.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

maintaining a list of users to be notified in response to receipt of a given indicator;

determining that the received indication is the given indicator; and

using the list of users to identify contact information for the plurality of recipients.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the outbound
packetized calls call comprises a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) call.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein a VoIP switch initiates the
outbound packetized calls simultaneously call to more than one hundred of the plurality of
recipients.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein a VoIP switch initiates the
outbound packetized calls simultaneously call to more than one of the plurality of recipients,
wherein the VoIP switch has a simultaneous connections limit, further wherein the more than
one of the plurality of recipients comprises a number of recipients greater than 75% of the
simultaneous connections limit.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the multicast server comprises
an Internet Protocol (IP) multicast server, and wherein the method further comprises further
comprising:

      disconnecting from the first call; and

      indicating successful delivery of the message to the first recipient called party.

9. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the contact information comprises a VoIP
telephone number for each of the plurality of recipients.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising playing an audio file representing the message, the audio file having a format selected from the group consisting of a .WAV file, a .MIDI file, and a .AU file.

11. (Currently Amended) A notification system, comprising:

a memory maintaining contact information for a collection of subscribers to be notified in response to a given notification signal, the collection of subscribers comprising a first user and the contact information comprising a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) telephone number for the first user;

a network interface operable to receive the notification signal and to output a trigger signal in response to receipt of the given notification signal;

a message to be played to the collection of subscribers in response to receipt of the given notification signal;

a VoIP switch responsive to the trigger signal and operable to support a plurality of simultaneous connections, the VoIP switch further operable to initiate outbound VoIP calls to a plurality of users in the collection of subscribers;

a call answered mechanism operable to <u>determine whether the first user answers</u> <s>recognize an answering of</s> a given VoIP call placed to the first user; and

an Internet Protocol (IP) multicast server operable to<u>, when the first user answers the given VoIP call,</u> <s>connect to the given VoIP call and to</s> deliver the message via the given VoIP call<u>, when the first user does not answer the given VoIP call, to place one or more subsequent VoIP calls to the first user, each of the one of more subsequent VoIP calls placed after a predetermined time interval has passed, and when a number of the one or more subsequent VoIP calls satisfies a threshold, to stop placing the one or more subsequent VoIP calls to the first user</u>.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the VoIP switch is operable to communicatively couple to a plurality of the subscribers across links comprising twisted pair wiring.

13. (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising a ring signal operable to initiate sending of a ring voltage in connection with the given VoIP call.

14. (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising a notify list comprising the collection of subscribers to be notified in response to the given notification signal and a second collection of subscribers to be notified in response to a second notification signal, wherein the network interface is further operable to receive the second notification signal and to output a second trigger signal in response to receipt of the second notification signal.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, further comprising a second message to be played to the second collection of subscribers in response to receipt of the second notification signal.

16. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the given notification signal comprises an Emergency Alert System notification.

17. (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising a call log engine operable to track a metric associated with message delivery to the collection of subscribers, the call log engine further operable to initiate a retry signal directing the VoIP switch to retry a call to a given subscriber.

18. (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising a specialized ring tone signal communicated to customer premise equipment operable to play a specialized ring tone that identifies an incoming call as an attempt to deliver the message.

19. (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising a broadband modem providing at least a portion of a link communicatively coupling the VoIP switch to a piece of customer premises equipment.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[1]] 11, wherein the contact information further comprises an additional communication address for the first user, the additional communication address selected from the group consisting of an electronic mail address, a Plain Old Telephony Service telephone number, an Instant Messaging address, a Short Messaging Service address, an Enhanced Messaging Service address, a Multimedia Messaging Service address, and a wireless telephone number.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of facilitating multicast notification, comprising:

maintaining a collection of callable Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) telephone
numbers;

creating a call list comprising at least one VoIP telephone number from the collection;

associating the call list with an event trigger;

saving a file representing a message to be played to the call list in response to receipt of
the event trigger;

initiating an individual call to the at least one VoIP telephone number and a second
individual call to a different telephone number on the call list in response to
receipt of the event trigger;

determining whether the individual call is answered;

when the individual call is answered, passing [[an]] the answered individual call to an
Internet Protocol (IP) multicast server;

playing the file to generate an output signal; ~~and~~

communicating the output signal ~~in connection with~~ via the answered individual call ~~via~~
using the IP multicast server;

when a first recipient does not answer the individual call, placing one or more subsequent
calls to the first recipient, each of the one of more subsequent calls placed after a
predetermined time interval has passed; and

when a number of the one or more subsequent calls satisfies a threshold, stopping placing
the one or more subsequent calls to the first recipient.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

creating a second call list comprising the at least one VoIP telephone number from the
collection; and

associating the second call list with a different event trigger.

23. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising creating the call list based at
least partially on a geographic location of a telephone station associated with the VoIP telephone
number.

24. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising creating the call list based at least partially on a group affiliation of a user associated with the VoIP telephone number.

25. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the file has a format selected from the group consisting of a .WAV file, a .MIDI file, and a .AU file.

26. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

initiating presentation of an administrator interface to a remote party;

receiving via the interface a request to create a second call list;

creating the second call list; and

associating the second call list with a different event trigger.

27. (Cancelled).